

DRAFT MINUTES

TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

April 4, 2015

I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 3:00 PM on Monday, April 4, 2014. Those members in attendance were Mr. Ward Bucher, Chair; Mrs. Marsha Kacher, Mrs. Dorothy C. Fenwick, Mr. Robert Amdur, Mr. Ron Mitchell, Mr. Robert Mueller and Ms. Cynthia Schmidt. Representing the County was Mr. Jeremy Rothwell and Mr. Daniel Brandewie.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW MINUTES OF THE February 2, 2015 MEETING - The minutes of the meeting on February 2nd were reviewed. Mr. Ronald Mitchell moved to approve the minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy Fenwick and unanimously carried.
- B. UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT OF HPC COMMISSIONERS – Mr. Ward Bucher said he spoke to two of the County Council, Andy Hollis and Laura Price, and asked when they might be appointing new Commissioners. Mr. Hollis and Ms. Price suggested TCHPC might recommend some candidates. It was discussed that the County Council may not get around to acting upon this issue until after the election, and appointments may not be forthcoming until sometime after the first of the New Year.
- C. UPDATE ON STAFF ASSIGNMENTS – Mr. Daniel Brandewie updated the commission that Mr. Jeremy Rothwell will take over staff responsibilities to the TCHPC from Mr. Martin Sokolich and Ms. Florence Ball, while Mr. Brandewie will provide additional support as required.
- D. UPDATE ON THE MILLER'S HOUSE (T-70) – Mr. Ward Bucher explained that as per an agreement with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), the Miller's House near Wye Mills will be required to apply to become a Talbot County Historic Overlay District. In accordance with the Talbot County Code, to become a Historic Overlay District, the application must obtain final approval from the Talbot County Council after a recommendation both from the TCHPC and the Planning Commission. Mr. Ward Bucher explained that the new owner of the house has 90 days from the date of sale to make an application to become a Historic Overlay District. Mr. Ward Bucher stated that the TCHPC will be conducting a site visit in the very near future as part of the application process.
- E. EMERSON POINT BARNS – The site visit is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd. Mr. Jeremy Rothwell has sent out directions and materials for the site visit.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. SITE VISITS – Mr. Robert Amdur said he has arranged to visit Beverly (T-240) this month. He will email staff and the Commissioners with the arrangements.
- B. RFP FOR SURVEY OF HOUSES OF WORSHIP AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS – Mr. Jeremy Rothwell explained that he has worked with a temporary employee with the Planning and Zoning Office to compile an Excel database of those public buildings and houses of worship that have already been surveyed on the Maryland Inventory of History Properties. In addition, staff has nearly completed an inventory of houses and commercial properties within the unincorporated villages of Talbot County. The preliminary findings have revealed that most eligible houses of worship and public buildings have already been surveyed at least once.

Mr. Jeremy Rothwell requested direction from the TCHPC as to what should be the focus of the RFP of the \$4,500 in available county funds. A discussion ensued as to potential areas of focus for the survey work. Mr. Ward Bucher noted that he would like the public to be able to directly access the MHT surveys about public buildings and houses of worship (and photographs thereof) from some sort of online public portal. Mrs. Dorothy Fenwick recommended that the TCHPC hold off on making a final recommendation as per the focus of the RFP until after staff completes the database and members of the TCHPC have an opportunity to review said database. Mr. Jeremy Rothwell noted that he would complete the database and email it to all TCHPC members before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Daniel Brandewie explained that he has been working on a CoastSmart grant application for Talbot County, and was interested in potentially including an historic preservation element. He noted that the City of Annapolis recently completed an inventory of those historic resources threatened either by sea level rise and/or within the 100-year flood zone, and thought that a similar inventory could be taken of the historic resources in Talbot County. Discussion ensued, and the commissioners were supportive of including historic resources in the CoastSmart grant application.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

- A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS – Mr. Ward Bucher explained that he will be giving a seminar on historic preservation tax credits in Cambridge in the near future, and that the TCHPC should consider sponsoring a similar event. Discussion ensued. Mr. Jeremy Rothwell said that the TCHPC should consider coordinating with the Mid-Shore Board of Realtors to host such an educational seminar, given that Realtors are required to earn so many continuing education credits every year.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 3:00 pm in Conference Room One of the Talbot County Office Building at 215 Bay Street in Easton.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:10 pm.